

**State of California  
Department of Parks and Recreation**

**NOTICE OF EXEMPTION**

**TO:** Office of Planning and Research  
1400 Tenth Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**FROM:** Department of Parks and Recreation  
1416 Ninth Street  
P.O. Box 942896  
Sacramento, CA 94296-0001

**PROJECT TITLE:** Repair Spring Ranch Historic Buildings

**LOCATION:** Van Damme State Park

**COUNTY:** Mendocino

**DESCRIPTION OF THE NATURE AND PURPOSE OF PROJECT:**

Repair four main historic buildings of the Spring Ranch complex at Van Damme State Park to protect the historic resource and support continued use and maintenance. Repairs will occur as follows:

Main Barn

- Repair/replace deteriorated wooden pier foundation
- Reshingle south wall
- Remove earth/wood contact at foundation and grade adjacent landscape as necessary to drain water away from the building and evenly disperse stormwater runoff.

Three Bay Barn

- Stabilize and shore up timber frame
- Remove decomposed roof sheathing and shingles; re-roof with metal shell.
- Remove earth/wood contact at foundation and grade adjacent landscape as necessary to drain water away from the building and evenly disperse stormwater runoff.

Creamery

- Remove and store hand split shake roof; cover roof with metal shell.

Long Barn

- Routine repair and maintenance
- Clean out manure
- Remove earth/wood contact at foundation and grade adjacent landscape as necessary to drain water away from the building and evenly disperse stormwater runoff.

Work in the Main Barn and Three Bay Barn will only occur between October 1 and May 1 to avoid impacts to bats during breeding season. Two nesting boxes for barn owls will be installed prior to the start of construction as alternative nesting sites in the unlikely event the owls are disturbed by construction activities. No openings that might allow owls or bats to return to the structures once work is completed will be sealed off or blocked.

Due to the historic nature of the buildings and surroundings, qualified DPR cultural resource specialist(s) will monitor all ground-disturbing activities.

**PUBLIC AGENCY APPROVING THE PROJECT:** California Department of Parks and Recreation

**NAME OF DIVISION OR DISTRICT CARRYING OUT THE PROJECT:** Mendocino District

**EXEMPT STATUS:**

- ☐ Declared Emergency (Section 15269(a))  
☐ Emergency Project (Section 15269(b) and (c))  
☐ Statutory Exemption (Section: )  
☒ Categorical Exemption Class: 4, 31 Section: 15304, 15331

**REASONS WHY PROJECT IS EXEMPT:**

Project consists of the:

- Minor alterations in the condition of land and vegetation that will not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees; and
- Maintenance, repair, and stabilization of historic resources, in a manner consistent with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties with Guidelines for Preserving, Rehabilitating, Restoring, and Reconstructing Historic Buildings (1995), Weeks and Grimmer.

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**Gregory W. Picard, District Superintendent**

**DATE** \_\_\_\_\_